

Message Text

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53

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FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2200

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOURENCO MARQUES 0768

E.O.,11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MZ

SUBJ: INTEREST IN RETURN TO MOZAMBIQUE OF MOZAMBICANS
PRESENTLY IN THE UNITDD STATES

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 749

1. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS DURING PAST 26 MONTHS WE HAVE BEEN APPROACHED INFORMALLY BY PERSONS SOLICITING OUR HELP IN FINDING TUT WHETHER MOZAMBICANS WHO HAD LEFT THE COUNTRY WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES AND MADE THEIR WAY TO THE UNITED STATES MIGHT SAFELY RETURN HOME WITHOUT BEING PUNISHED FOR THEIR ILLEGAL DEPARTURE. OUR DISCREET, LOW-KEY EFFORTS LOOK INTO MATTER HERE HAVE LED US TO CONCLUDE THAT IN ALL PROBABILITY AUTHORITIES WOULD NOT PROSECUTE SUCH RDTURNEES PROVIDING LATTER REFRAIN FROM OPPOSITIONIST ACTIVITIES AFTER THEIR RETURN. APPROACH BY DR. JOANA SIMIAO IS LATEST MANIFESTATION OF LOCAL INTEREST IN MAKING SOME USE HERE OF MOZAMBICANS TALENT NOW BEING EDUCATED, OR WORKING ABROAD.
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WM IN RESPONDING TO SUCH APPROACHES, WE HAVE STRESSED THERE IS VERY LITTLE U.S. GOVERNMENT CAN DO IN THIS MATTER AND THAT WILLINGNESS OF ABSENTEES TO RETURN PROBABLY DEPENDS ON ASSURANCES PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES WOULD BE WILLING TO GIVE THAT THEIR PAST WOULD BE FORGIVEN AND THEY COULD RESUME NORMAL LIFE HERE.

3. LATEST ATTEMPT BY DR. SIMIAO TO FIND OUT WHETHER CERTAIN NAMED MOZAMBICANS WOULD BE WILLING TO RETURN "UNDER SPECIFIED CONDITIONS OF SAFETY" AMOUNTS TO DIRECT REQUEST FOR INTERVENTION BY US.

4. COMMENT: WHILE NOT ADVOCATING THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT BECOME INVOLVED IN THIS MATTER, WE AGREE WELFARE OF MOZAMBIQUE WOULD BE ENHANCED BY PRESENCE OF THOSE FEW EDUCATED AND TRAINED MOZAMBICANS WHO MIGHT BE MUSTERED FROM ABROAD. THIS WOULD ALSO APPEAR TO BE IN INTEREST OF PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES, WHO ARE TRYING TO FIND ADEQUATELY TRAINED PERSONNEL TO FIT INTO THEIR PLANS FOR INCREASED PARTICIPATION BY BLACK AFRICANS IN GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ECONOMIC ENTERPRISE. SUCH PLANS ARE MOVING VERY SLOWLY. IF SOME WAY CAN BE FOUND TO SOUND OUT THE THINKING OF MOZAMBICANS PRESENTLY IN THE UNITED STATES AND GET THEIR VIEWS BACK TO DR. SIMIAO AND PRESUMABLY THROUGH HER TO PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES, THIS MIGHT EVENTUALLY LEAD TO SPEEDING UP OF PROCESS WHEREBY POOL OF AVAILABLE AFRICAN TALENT COULD BE ENLARGED.

5. PRESUMABLY THE USG HAS NO INTEREST IN WHETHER MOZAMBICANS WHO HAVE ACQUIRED PERMANENT U.S. RESIDENT STATUS CHOOSE TO RETURN TO MOZAMBIQUE OR NOT, AND IT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED AN INTERFERENCE IN THEIR AFFAIRS TO ACT AS INTERMEDIARY. CASE OF STUDENTS WHO HAVE LONG OVERSTAYED THEIR INITIAL ENTRIES, PERSONS WITH REFUGEE STATUS, ETC., MAY BE DIFFERENT. PRESUMABLY SUCH PERSONS NORMALLY HAVE A RIGHT TO CONTINUED HAVEN IN THE UNITED STATES ONLY SO LONG AS IT IS NOT SAFE FOR THEM TO RETURN HOME. REGARDLESS OF WHETHER ANY PRESSURE SHOULD BE PUT ON THEM TO DO SO, IT WOULD NOT SEEM INAPPROPRIATE FOR USG TO INQUIRE OF PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES WHETHER ANY IN THIS CATEGORY WOULD BE WELCOMED BACK AND WHAT IF ANY GUARANTEES PORTUGUESE WOULD BE WILLING TO GIVE TO INDIVIDUALS

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AS AN INDUCEMENT TO RETURN. OR PERHAPS SUCH INQUIRY COULD BE STIMULATED THROUGH SOME INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ORGANIZATION. IN RECENT MONTHS A NUMBER OF MOZAMBICAN REFUGEES HAVE BEEN REPATRIATED FROM KENYA THROUGH THE INTERVENTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS.

VAN OSS

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